(d) Plantwise financial performance of Public Sector Steel Companies for the year 1999-2000 is as under:

Net Profit/Loss (-) (Rs. in crores)

	SAIL	IISCO	RINL/VSP
1999-2000	-1720	-210	-562

(e) and (f) At present there is no proposal to disinvest Government's equity in SAIL. For RINL Disinvestment Commission had recommended writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999, alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity, to a strategic buyer. However, no final decision on the disinvestment of RINL (VSP) has been taken so far.

Privatisation of RSP

2322. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to consider their decision to privatise the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of the employees of the said plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Government has not taken any decision to privatise Rourkela Steel Plant.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Permission for foreign investment in steel sector

†2323. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission for cent percent foreign investment in steel sector;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the likely effects of this permission of public sector steel companies;

(c) whether Government propose to make disinvestment in public sector steel companies; and

(d) if so, the names of such companies, with complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is premature to estimate actual impact on steel producing public sector companies.

(c) and (d) The Government has not taken final decision to disinvest its equity in steel producing public sector companies.

Decision regarding VSP

2324. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1669 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking a final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A meeting of Finance Minister, Steel Minister, Disinvestment Minister and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, was held on 19th May, 2000 and the revival plan of VSP was discussed. It was decided to have another meeting for further discussion/decision on the revival plan of RINL (VSP). Efforts are being made to convene the said meeting. No final decision has been taken so far.

Steel officials under police custody

†2325. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of steel plant, Ranchi who were kept in police custody for more than 24 hours and were not suspended alongwith the details

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.